A COUNTY-BY-COUNTY STATEWIDE APPROACH
TO
REDRAWING WYOMING'S LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS
2011

A Narrative Key To The Plan Entitled "County-By-County Statewide" Available at

http://legisweb.state.wy.us/Redistricting/County%20by%20County%20Statewide%20Plan.pdf

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WYOMING HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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This year, Wyoming's 60 House of Representative and 30 Senate legislative districts are required to be redrawn with the object of achieving substantial population equality within those districts. When completed, every House district must contain the ideal number of 9,394 people,[1] plus or minus five percent, while each Senate district must be double that number and comprised of two adjacent House districts.

According to the 2010 census, in the last ten years, Wyoming's population grew by almost 70,000 people. Therefore, each House district must on average reflect an increase of 1,165 people. However, across the state growth was uneven. In spite of the overall trend, some regions actually lost population while others fairly well exploded. The old districts simply no longer fit the new population realities and efforts to remodel existing district lines make the task more complicated than it really is. The better approach to redistricting begins with a clean slate.

This plan takes a comprehensive, statewide approach to solving Wyoming's redistricting puzzle and is quite simple. It begins with a statewide framework for structure, but relies on local expertise for details and completion. ***By merely following county boundaries to the greatest extent possible,*** counties and combinations of counties form single or multiple natural legislative districts

("naturals") within their boundaries, requiring no further adjustments other than to draw in the interior lines that create the number of districts to which the people who live within those county boundaries are entitled.[2]

Drawing legislative district boundaries along county lines has a lot more going for it besides just ease of creation. *Operating* legislative districts within county boundaries is simply more efficient. Minimizing voter confusion, election expense and the corrosive effects on community continuity are just a few of the advantages realized when district boundaries correspond with county lines. For the next five legislative elections will we will have to live with the lines drawn in this redistricting process. Elections are a function of county administration and the county lines are already drawn. We had just as well take advantage of them. There is little reason to do it any other way.

Naturals: Naturals are analogous to the clues or "givens" in a sudoku puzzle and provide the necessary direction for solving the rest of the problem because once they are filled in, other parts of the puzzle fall into place. The following counties are naturals and form 32 of the needed 60 districts.

County	Population	Number of Districts	Total Devia-tion From "Ideal"	Average Percentage Deviation from Ideal Per District
Albany	36,299	4	-1,277	-3.4%
Laramie[4]+ Goshen	91,738 +13,249 104,987	11	1,653	+1.6%
Lincoln	18,106	2	-682	-3.6%
Natrona	75,450	8	+298	+.4%
Park	28,205	3	+23	+.08%
Sheridan	29,116	3	+934	+4%
Niobrara+ Weston	2,484 +7,208 9,692	1	+298	+3.1%
SUBTOTALS:				
9	**301,855**	**32**	**+1,247**	**+4.1%**

Nearly Naturals: While naturals provide the solution to more than half of Wyoming's total redistricting problem, other counties are also very close in population to the ideal number. By following county boundaries to the greatest extent possible and by borrowing or lending population from or to a contiguous, cooperating county, "nearly natural" counties can achieve the ideal district population with minimal impact to the cooperator.[3] This plan anticipates that input will be generated by local folks who best know how certain counties can be divided when division cannot otherwise be avoided.

Johnson County is short of the ideal population by 825 people. Sheridan County is long by 927 people. If Johnson borrows 825 from Sheridan, perhaps in the area of Story, this will give Johnson the ideal population for a district. This area of Sheridan County shares a close community of interest with Johnson County and district lines could be drawn in a manner where deviation from the county boundaries would be minimal.

Sublette County is in excess of the ideal population by 853 people. Sublette can lend Sweetwater County that number which will help Sweetwater, Uinta and Carbon Counties cooperate to form 9 districts.

Platte County is only short 727 people. The Laramie County/Goshen County group can easily lend that number without affecting the eleven districts to which those counties are entitled. It is anticipated that the loan to Platte County might be drawn in the area adjacent to Platte County's southern boundary.

Crook County, Campbell County and Converse County: Crook County is 2,311 people short of the ideal population. It can borrow that number from northern Campbell County and in doing so helps solve the dilemma faced by Converse County, which is otherwise unmanageable within county boundaries. At 13, 833 people, Converse County has a population that is 4,439 too large for one district and is 4,955

people short of two districts. However, after lending 2,311 people to Crook County, the balance of Campbell County, when combined with Converse County, holds 57,655 people, from which six districts can be formed.

Big Horn County has a population of 11,898 and is 2,274 people in excess of ideal. Big Horn County can contain one entire district within its boundaries, however, its location against the Montana border and between ideal counties limits its lending options for surplus population. One possibility is for Big Horn to lend Washakie County its excess even though this transaction leaves Washakie in need of further adjustment, it having to then lend Hot Springs County 1,416 people.

County	Total Population For These Districts	# of Districts	Total Devia-tion	Average Deviation/ District	Average % Deviation
Albany	36,299	4	-1,277	-319	+3.4%
Big Horn (Less 2,274 to Washakie)	9,394	1	0	0	0
Campbell⁴/Converse (Less 2,311 to Crook)	57,655	6	+1,301	+217	+2.3%
Crook (plus 2,311 from Campbell)	9,394	1	0	0	0%
Johnson (plus 825 from Sheridan)	9,394	1	0	0	0%
Laramie/Goshen (Less 727 to Platte)	104,260	11	+926	+84	+.89%
Lincoln	18,106	2	-682	-341	-3.6%
Natrona	75,450	8	+298	+37	+.4%
Niobrara/Weston	9,692	1	+298	+298	+3.2%
Park	28,205	3	+23	+8	+.08%
Platte (plus 727 from Laramie/Goshen)	9,394	1	0	0	0%
Sheridan (less 825 to Johnson)	28,291	3	+109	+36	+.39%
Sublette (less 853 to Sweetwater)	9,394	1	0	0	0%
Washakie (plus 2,274 from Big Horn and less 1,413 to Hot Springs)	9,394	1	0	0	0%
TOTALS for 17 Counties	**414,322**	**44**	**+996**	**+22**	**+.24%**

Once the naturals and nearly naturals are recognized, the framework for solving the entire redistricting problem is in place. Two blocs of three counties each are left over and with a little help, nicely complete the solution to the puzzle. In the south, Uinta County, Sweetwater County and Carbon County, plus the surplus population from Sublette County, form the outline for nine districts. Further to the north, the outside boundaries of Teton County, Fremont County and Hot Springs County, plus the extra population from Washakie County will describe the last seven districts. Of these in the north, one district must be given special consideration under the Voting Rights Act of 1964. It is suggested the location of that district be established first.

County	Population	Number # # of Districts	Total Deviation	Average Deviation Per District	Average % Deviation
TOTALS from above for 17 Counties	**414,322**	**44**	**+996**	**+23**	**+.02%**
Uinta, Sweetwater and Carbon Counties (plus 853 from Sublette)	**81,662**	**9**	**-2,884**	**-320**	**-3.4%**
Teton, Fremont and Hot Springs Counties (plus 1,413 from Washakie)	**67,642**	**7**	**1,887**	**+269**	**+2.8%**
Totals on 23 Counties	**563,626**	**60**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Additional information on redistricting can be found on the Legislatures 2011 Redistricting page at:
http://legisweb.state.wy.us/lsoweb/Redistricting/LegilativeRedistricting.aspx

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Notes:
[1.]The ideal district population is derived by dividing Wyoming's population by 60, the established number of House districts in the state. Therefore: 563,626/60= 9,394.

[2.] Where county boundaries outline more than one district or where district boundaries cannot be drawn along county lines, local input will direct the location of the division lines. It should be made clear that this plan does not anticipate any multi-member districts.

3.Districts don't have to be "ideal." The population contained therein only need be within a range of plus or minus five per cent of ideal. Thus, based on local considerations, the actual population borrowed or lent may be within a range that is as many as 470 people higher or lower than the ideal number of 9,394. For instance, Platte County could borrow as few as 257 or as many as 1197 from Laramie County to form a district. This latitude can provide convenient flexibility in drawing districts. However, approaching maximum deviation in any district may, as an unintended consequence, imperil the overall result elsewhere in the redistricting problem.

4.Campbell County and Laramie County could actually both be considered naturals. Campbell's boundaries contain five districts and Laramie's, ten, all within acceptable deviations. However, on occasion, leaving even a natural county intact is not an option because of special considerations concerning certain neighboring counties.

County-by-County Statewide Plan (Representative Hans Hunt)

Label:
District Name
# of Reps.

PRK 3.0

Mammoth WY 263

Frannie WY 157
Deaver WY 178
Cowley WY 655
Lovell WY 2,360
Byron WY

Ralston WY 280
Powell WY 6,314
Cody WY 9,520

Meeteetse WY 327

Park WY

Teton WY

Alta WY 394
Kelly WY 138
Moose Wilson Road WY 1,821
Rafter J Ranch WY 1,075
Hoback WY 1,176
Alpine Northeast WY 396
Nordic WY 602
Star Valley Ranch WY 1,503
Turnerville WY 192
Afton WY 1,911
Smoot WY 195

SHD 3.0

Sheridan WY
Ranchester WY 855
Dayton WY 757
Sheridan WY 17,444

Big Horn WY 490
Story WY 828

Burlington WY 288

Big Horn to Washakie 2,274 Population

Greybull WY 1,847

BIG 1.0

Basin WY 1,285
Manderson WY 114
Hyattville WY 75

WAS-BIG 1.0

Ten Sleep WY 260

Arvada WY 43

Sheridan to Johnson 824 population

Buffalo WY 4,585

Johnson WY

JHN 1.0

Kaycee WY 263

Campbell to Crook 2,311 Population

Crook WY

CRK-CMP 1.0

Beulah WY 73

Campbell WY

Sleepy Hollow WY 1,308

Pine Haven WY 490
Moorcroft WY 1,009

Sundance WY 1,182

Upton WY 1,100

Osage WY 208

Weston WY

Newcastle WY 3,532

WESNIO 1.0

Wright WY 1,807

TEFRHS-WAS 7.0

Owl Creek WY 5
Kirby WY 92

Hot Springs WY

Thermopolis WY 3,009

Washakie to Hot Springs 1,416 Population

Shoshoni WY 649

Crowheart WY 141

Pavillion WY 231

Johnstown WY 242

Ethete WY 1,553
Riverton WY 10,615

Fremont WY

Hudson WY 458

Cora WY 142

SUB 1.0

Sublette WY

Big Piney WY 552

Atlantic City WY 37

Jeffrey City WY 58

Bondurant WY 93

CMPCON 6.0

Converse WY

Edgerton WY 195

Natrona WY

NAT 8.0

Antelope Hills WY 97
Homa Hills WY 278

Evansville WY 2,544

Casper Mountain WY 401

Alcova WY 76

Rolling Hills WY 440

Douglas WY 6,120

Orin WY 46

Esterbrook WY 52

Lost Springs WY 4

Niobrara WY

Lance Creek WY 43

Lusk WY 1,567

Van Tassell WY 15

Glendo WY 205

Hartville WY 62

Platte WY

PLT-LAR 1.0

Y-O Ranch WY 195

Slater WY 80

Chugwater WY 212

Fort Laramie WY 230

Torrington WY 6,501

Veteran WY 23

Hawk Springs WY 45

Laramie to Platte 727 Population

LARGOS 11.0

Albin WY 181

Pine Bluffs WY 1,129

LIN 2.0

Cokeville WY 535

Lincoln WY

Fontenelle WY 12

Opal WY 96

Granger WY 139

Bear River WY 518

Evanston WY 12,359

Carter WY 10

Uinta WY
Lyman WY 2,115

Robertson WY 97

Lonetree WY 49
Washam WY 51

La Barge WY 551

Sublette to Sweetwater 853 Population

Farson WY 313
Eden WY 281

Reliance WY 714
Superior WY 336

North Rock Springs WY 2,207

Rock Springs WY 23,036

Green River WY 12,515

Table Rock WY 0

Wamsutter WY 451

UISWCA-SUB 9.0

Baroil WY 106

Carbon WY

Sweetwater WY

Sinclair WY 433

Hanna WY 841
Medicine Bow WY 284

Elk Mountain WY 191

Rock River WY 245

Arlington WY 25

Saratoga WY 1,690

Riverside WY 52

Dixon WY 97

ALB 4.0

Centennial WY 270

Albany WY 55
Woods Landing-Jelm WY 97

Laramie WY 30,816

Albany WY

Ranchettes WY 5,798

Cheyenne WY 59,466

Laramie WY

Carpenter WY 94